1560. *[Transferred to the 13th September, 1991].*

Shortage in Supply of Fertilizers due to Foreign Exchange Problem

1561. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the acute shortage of foreign exchange Government propose to import less quantity of fertilizers which would be resulting in shortage of fertilizers to the consumers;

(b) if so, the details of the import of different kind of fertilizers, their expected demand and proposed plan for timely supplies; and

(c) whether the recent developments in USSR would affect the import of different fertilizers and if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Fertilizers are being imported in substantial quantity despite constraints of foreign exchange. Arrangements are being made towards meeting requirements of the entire year.

(b) During the year 1991-92, the total consumption of fertilizers in terms of nutrients is estimated at 135.26 lakh tonnes. During the current year, 12.79 lakh tonnes of fertilizers in terms of nutrients have been imported upto August, 1991. Efforts are being made for timely supply of fertilizers to the farmers.

(c) MMTC has been advised to keep a strict watch on the supply and shipment schedules from USSR in view of the current political situation prevailing there. The shipment schedule offered by USSR for supply of urea is extremely tight. Arrangements are being made to lift the entire contracted cargo within the stipulated period.

Supply of Drinking Water in Shimla

1562. SHRI CHANDAN SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the Seventh Five Year Plan there was a scheme to provide drinking water to villages belonging to Tehsil Chirgaon, District Shimla (Himachal Pradesh);

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that people of village Thali face a lot of difficulties for getting drinking water for domestic use and for their animals; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to provide adequate drinking water supply to the people of these villages in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Achievements in Space Research

1563. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATARAMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure spent on space research during the last three years, till date;

(b) whether the achievements are commensurate to the expenditure incurred;

(c) what are the latest achievements made in space research;

(d) whether Government propose to honour the scientists engaged in space research; and

(e) if so, the number of the scientists who are in the list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) The total expenditure on space research during last three years till date is Rs. 1335 Crores.